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49. 1682.





WANTED! A WIFE!!



London :

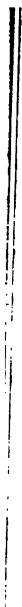
KENT AND RICHARDS, PATERNOSTER ROW ;

AND

W. F. CROFTS, DUKE STREET, BLOOMSBURY ;

AND ALL BOOKSELLERS.

1849.



WANTED! A WIFE!

WANTED!—"Well," say some of our readers, "there is nothing very extraordinary in this, doubtless many things are wanted by us individually and collectively, both in private and public matters for purposes as varied as the wants themselves, therefore this is nothing new." True, answers our echo, we all of us want many things—some real, others imaginary, some superfluous to actual comfort, others as necessary to ensure it—some whose possession would confer real blessings, others but an alloy upon existing happiness, and which would therefore prove curses instead of anticipated benefits; such a subject as this is a very grave matter for us to inquire into, nor do we imagine with labour never so great, and with the most industrious perseverance, that we could arrive at anything like a satisfactory or definite conclusion as to what are the real wants indispensably necessary to be supplied, the wishes to be gratified, or whether our views might not prove too contracted for some, far too liberal for more, by others that we created these wants like so many chimeras and which could never be complied with but

by the realization of the most utopian schemes that ever floated in the imagination of an enthusiast or fired the brain of a fanatic ; therefore we decline analyzing or classifying the wants of mankind leaving each individual to determine for himself and supply them in the most judicious and comfortable manner he can.

But if some are merely chimerical, others are equally real ; happiness is the great *desideratum* of all, and although we may not possess a fair, or we might even go so far as to say an equitable portion of the gifts of Providence, still it is the aim of man to acquire that which is essential to his dearest interests, and which by perseverance and industry he has a chance of possessing, so that the means of his own praiseworthy exertions may be subservient to his wishes and contribute towards the permanent establishment of the comfort and happiness of his future years.

Doubtless each individual has his or her different ideas of what enjoyment really is ; that which would contribute to the gratification of one, might be positive uneasiness to the other, and the realization of the hopes of some yielding satisfaction and pleasure, would to those of a different temperament prove but uninteresting and futile, therefore, we doubt not, but that as happiness to a great extent exists within the reach of all upon whose efforts to attain it, and the display of sound judgment depends the great secret and certainty of success, so it remains with each to make the best use of that which he acquires, and that while looking

to himself not unmindful of his fellow-creatures, but with the spirit of a true philanthropist diffuse the means within his power, and thus while he ameliorates the condition, gladdens the heart, and proves of benefit to his fellow-men, so in like measure will he with the satisfaction attendant upon a good and worthy cause augment his own comfort, happiness, and enjoyment.

“Wanted!” again we take part of our title—but we imagine some of our fair readers much inclined to interrupt us and exclaim, “All this may be very well in its place, but what has it to do with the remaining portion of it? I expected something very different, and supposed it would have been far more interesting, as with others it refers to me.” “Certainly it does, Miss, and you most undoubtedly have a right to learn of something to your advantage, and what would be more so than to obtain some slight information of the most momentous and interesting subject, as we know you want a ——” “Fie, Sir!”—we are stopped in our remark, and here perhaps a blush ensues just as the word to complete the sentence was about being uttered; but compose yourself, young lady, why confused, or what cause for the blush to rush thus to your cheeks, although we admit it heightens your loveliness and sets off your charming countenance to advantage;—for a moment, in imagination accompany us; look upon that varied landscape, hill and dale, the blue heavens above, the green sward below, the extended

plain and the intricate forest, the luxuriance of the corn field, the beauty and magnificence of the parterre richly stored with the choicest and most delicate flowers of every hue ; the fragrance of the new mown hay, the joyousness which those chubby youngsters appear to experience in their gambols ; yonder neatly thatched cottage with its trellised porch, the honeysuckle shading the window with the jessamine and clematis, and the neat little garden in whose centre it stands ; do you not feel inspired by the most pleasing sensations, and in a moment of enthusiasm wish to live amid such scenes as these ? We turn from this, and silently gaze upon the vastness and grandeur of the ocean, the mighty waters mingling with the sky upon whose bosom are borne the produce and riches of foreign climes ; the scenery is sublime as we stand upon the tall and prominent cliff casting our eye along the extended shore till objects grow imperceptible and are lost in the distance ;—see yonder stately bark, how gallantly she rides upon the waves, returning from a distant shore and bearing those whose expectations of again beholding those so dear to them are apparently near the fulfilment ;—but see you yon cloud, 'tis but a speck—watch, suddenly it increases—hark ! 'twas distant thunder, and even now the first faint streak of lightning is reflected against the dark drapery of the heavens ; have you a bold heart ? take courage and let us view the coming storm ; the waters already agitated, *the billows begin convulsively to heave, anon they rise*

into fury—the lightning how vivid—with what an awful crash did that peal of thunder resound, and now heaven's artillery appears to be in full play—flash after flash—peal after peal—the wind increased to a hurricane, the waves rising in gigantic masses, and see that ship now struggling against the fearful rage of the elements, the waters momentarily threatening to overwhelm and engulf her. Alas! she strikes, the sunken rock more dangerous than the storm proves her destruction: the pumps are at work, hear you not the shouts of the commander, vigorous and boldly they work but of no avail, they commit themselves to the waves in their boat, Providence attends it, and they are saved; but the storm has passed, how awful yet grand during its continuance.—and now as evening advances, the day fast declining, how delightful to ramble enlivened by the last parting carol of the feathered songsters on every side, and then to behold the magnificence attending the rising of the queen of night when the earth appears rather a fairy vision than a reality, so beautifully are the objects softened and blended by her lambent beams, that we are almost ready to inquire if Paradise presented a lovelier or grander scene; and then what calm enjoyment when viewing this quiescent state—how many holy and devout feelings rise, intellectually and silently we perform our vigils at the shrine of nature, the wide expanse of the spangled firmament our oratory, and thus in the repose of creation and the stillness of night, our orisons rise

higher—infinately higher than the loftiest planet or remotest star !

Well now, my fair one, having accompanied us to the region of thought, the illimitable bound of imagination in pleasures of rambling, and been our companion in this somewhat lofty flight where we have mentally gazed upon the sunshine, viewed the magnificence and splendour, the beauty, grace, and other fascinating charms, whether in the stillness of a calm, or the wildness of the storm, we'll descend, bring ourselves back to our old positions, you in your proper place, and we seated in our arm chair quietly in a little room appropriated to literary pursuits, disturbed occasionally by the rattling of vehicles in the street, the shrill whistle at the railway station, or the call of some unexpected visitor, at the same time hoping you are satisfied with your excursion, that it has afforded some trifling gratification, if not, we console ourselves that although in these times of fierce competition in travelling, and the really reasonable offers held out to us for now and then an agreeable change, you cannot complain of the cost of the journey, we have put you to no very great expense, and for speed and distance we imagine the present mode of transit is scarcely a match.

Well, we have been speaking of various wants of mankind, for as it always was so will it continue, that he'll want from infancy to old age ; the infant as it passes into boyhood ceases to want the cares of a nurse, *and the boy throws off his hitherto utter dependence*

beginning to think, act and calculate for himself as he verges on to manhood, and then in time bears his own burden, looks to himself, and becomes the protector of others, still his wants are not lessened, merely changed, they do not end but are of a different kind.

We might perhaps in some cases trace the peculiar wants of each successive period, the unattainable wishes of boyhood, the chimeras and vain illusions of early manhood, the more settled and comprehensive schemes of middle life, and the wants of these ages far exceeded when man becomes enfeebled by age and affliction accompanied by the regrets and misgivings incident to this peculiar period of life; 'tis true we might expatiate upon each of these, and prove by the most indubitable arguments that the greater part of men pursue one course of folly from their birth to the grave, resolving but never acting upon their resolves, regretting but seldom or ever trying to improve, and often committing errors they had deemed themselves proof against. We might comment upon these matters but as it is no interesting occupation to trace the frailty and weakness of human nature or to look continually upon the dark side of a picture we leave this task to others of a more gloomy temperament and uncharitable disposition, and therefore turn to the more immediate wants of our fair readers in spite of whose blushes and remonstrances we intend boldly to affirm each now in a state of "single blessedness," without an exception, wants a husband, or at all events ought to want one, and in a parallel

with their "Wanted a Husband!" we place our title "Wanted, a Wife."

For a young lady to want a husband is quite natural and proper; just now you accompanied us in viewing the beauties of Creation, not the visible and material, but in imagination; now if you took any delight in this airy flight with one doomed to receive but few of the favours of the Fates, if a rapid career upon the wings of thought yields any satisfaction, we imagine the same would be vastly augmented, had you gazed upon real and animated nature, leaning on the arm of some dear companion, in whose glances you could divine the inmost thoughts, wishes and affections of his soul, all of which by your powerful influence over his heart you had subjugated to yourself, this we imagine would have been far better and proved more welcome than a gratuitous whirl through the regions of chaos or some other equally undefined element; and really we fancy we see this fond couple looking into the bright sunshine of the future, and anticipating the happiness which apparently awaits them—let us not disturb the romantic vision, or break the spell which hovers over you.

Now as the ladies are proverbial for their kindness, amiable manners, charity, philanthropy, and a host of other virtues, which were we to continue recording as they occurred to our mind for half an hour, we presume we should be as near the end as by naming only two or *three, it appears to us* that the present time offers ad-

mirable opportunities for the exercise and putting in practice some of these noble qualities, and as at all times it is highly commendable to be engaged in a good cause, we would suggest the action should be suited to the times, according to the emergency, so should the remedy be applied ; oftentimes for the want of a home man becomes a wanderer, unsettled in mind, nor would it be too much to say unsettled in principle, although not affecting him in his public capacity, yet intimately connected with his private habits and virtues ; not having ties to connect him with a particular class, unhesitatingly he forms associations which may act in a prejudicial and pernicious manner upon his after career ; he is careless of the place where he resides, for really it cannot be termed home in one case out of a hundred, therefore, destitute of its comforts he seeks abroad that gratification and amusement which it will not in anywise afford ; there is a vacuum requires filling, a want to be supplied, but that we may not appear ambiguous or incomprehensible in respect to the exercise of the virtues possessed in so great a proportion by the fair sex we have adverted to, and as a case is better illustrated by example than otherwise, and also presuming that few or any have a very serious objection to the perusal of facts in the shape of a narrative which bears immediately upon a subject under notice, without further ado, or preface, we will detail a few particulars of one of the class just spoken of, and with whom we are intimately connected.

"Wanted, a Wife!" Indeed! if ever a man wanted a wife, guardian, protector, or some other kind friend to look after him, to guide his wayward spirit and give a right turn to his inclinations, it was our friend Tom Newton.

By the decease of a rich Aunt, at the age of twenty-two, he found himself heir to a tolerable fortune, obtained by the said Aunt's husband in a very honourable, straightforward and industrious manner, as a good and honest trader in the City of London and divers other places, but when about enjoying the fruits of his exertions, and seriously contemplating upon retiring from the bustle and fatigue incident to his calling, he unexpectedly retired from business and life, at the same time leaving the partner of his former trials and labour to enjoy that in ease which he anticipated she would have shared with him; however there's no resisting the sudden and imperious call of the tyrant Death, and therefore, after due obseques were rendered to her husband, the property properly settled, and various other trifles arranged, the good old lady quietly retired into the country, at the same time, taking for her companion our friend Tom, to whom she was particularly attached, never having had the good fortune to be mother of son or daughter, therefore, her attachment towards a ruddy-complexioned well-formed, curly-headed fellow of sixteen cannot be a matter of any very great surprise.

Tom was properly educated, and well fitted by his *natural capacity* and prepossessing appearance to fill the

station for which he was designed by his worthy relation, that of a country gentleman, and being allowed a liberal portion of pocket money, a good horse, and perfect liberty, when he attained the age of eighteen, he had no very great reason to complain of his position, although at times he deemed himself hardly dealt by when his Aunt insisted upon his observing good hours, and never being from home after ten o'clock at night, to attend church regularly on a Sunday, refrain from horse-races, gambling-houses, and a variety of little et ceteras which she deemed fit and proper rules to lay down for the especial use and behoof of her nephew.

Now, as these terms were by no means oppressive or unjust, Tom, after for a time most scrupulously submitting to his Aunt's direction against his inclination, yet soon began to think, perhaps it might be as well to act as directed, as he found it policy to keep free from giving offence to the old lady, as her presents after his punctual and regular compliance with these rules fully testified, and as a purse of twenty sovereigns in addition to his usual allowance, was better than risking that sum at a game of chance, a handsome gold watch with appendages, a much better sight than a few horses scampering over the ground, he determined to obey, first from interest, and secondly to free him from a sordid view alone, the old lady's kindness had elicited his tender and affectionate regard, nor do we think willingly he would have given her cause for uneasiness.

or pain, as in truth she ably filled the offices of a mother which Tom had never known, and therefore in his Aunt appreciated.

Time rolled on, and at length our friend attained his twenty-first year, his relation, in order that he might have a true idea of independence, to show she did not wish him to depend upon his former allowance, and as a good earnest of her regard gave him £5000, with, however, an agreement that the same should be immediately invested, but as he had no idea of "investments, securities, bonds," and the like, of which the old lady spoke, he candidly confessed to her he knew not what to do with the money unless to lay it out in buying horses, travelling, and the like; but as this was not at all consonant with her wishes or ideas, she agreed to take the business into her own hands, and soon after there happening to be a nice little estate for sale, close by, but which exceeded the sum named by about £1500, she bought it, and presenting the titles rendered him owner and master of a rental of about £250 per annum.

Tom, as he might well be, was perfectly satisfied, and felt an additional regard for his Aunt, as she displayed so kind and liberal a disposition, and for the last twelve months being frugal he had managed to save nearly a hundred pounds, therefore in return for her kindness he proposed a trip to Brighton, thinking the sea breeze might prove beneficial, the expenses of which journey he was determined to bear, and as she *was pleased with his sense of gratitude* she consented

to his arrangement, and thus they very pleasantly passed a month or two at this fashionable watering place.

A short time after their return, Tom's aunt was suddenly taken ill, and in spite of the best medical advice, together with the greatest attention, she daily grew worse, until it was apparent to all around nature must soon become exhausted and death would put an end to her sufferings. Her wants were kindly administered to by her nephew, nor would he consent for any lengthened period to be absent from her chamber, feeling it his duty to care for and attend upon one from whom he had received so many marks of favour and affection, and whose tender regard had inspired him rather with the love of a son towards a fond mother than that of an aunt.

One day, while sitting by her bed side, and after the sufferer had aroused from a partial slumber, she addressed him. "I feel," said she, "my dear nephew, I shall live but a short time, already my days are numbered, nor can I long survive these afflictions which have of late borne so heavily upon me. I need hardly tell you of my deep interest and anxiety for your future well doing, you have been to me all that I desired, I was made happy by your obedience to my counsels, and satisfied that the advice of your elder was attended to, it has yielded you a quiet comfort and a happiness not to be experienced by those votaries of fashion who are ever within the vortex of dissipation

and excitement, as you were free from their cares, regrets and intrigues which must ever attend them, to support an artificial state from which no solid enjoyment can be obtained.

“Without ostentation, or parade, you have lived quietly with me, your wishes gratified, and wants attended to. I am satisfied with your conduct and your increased attention I can never repay, and that which you inherit will be but a poor recompense for your devotion and love.” “Dear aunt,” said Tom, “do not suppose that I have done more than my duty ; if I have been obedient it was your kindness that constrained me, and if affectionate, your tenderness demanded such a return, and I pray that you may get better, rather would I live in more humble circumstances if I might continue to be blessed with your society.” “I believe, my dear, you are sincere ;” returned his aunt, “but that cannot be ; now let me advise you as to your future course ; when I am gone, be careful of that which you will possess, and then as you have no near relations, select one who will be more to you than I have ever been, in whose sympathy you may find consolation for my loss, and by whose continued society your life may be made happy, blessed with the partner of your joys, a sharer of your cares and trials, to whom you may confide your all without fear. I pray you may thus pass a life of happiness and peace, and sometimes in your joyous moments *remember that I have been, that one long ago lived who*

cared for you, and whose last prayer was, as it will be, that God may bless you."

We seldom remember our friend to have been overcome by his feelings, but the words of his aunt were more than he could well bear—they completely unmanned him; and while she thus poured out her affection, and as it appeared to be, giving her last advice, to think this fond relation would soon be no more, he was unable to find utterance to reply, but experienced that choking sensation which accompanies deep affliction; without any manifest appearance of sorrow, his grief was intense—he experienced the most painful anguish, accompanied by bitter reflection of the irreparable loss he was likely to sustain.

Indeed it was the last time he received the advice of this worthy woman, as the next day after blessing him with her dying breath, she expired in his arms.

We pass over his affliction, and the mournful aspect of that house now to him cheerless, and deserted, the quiet of which appeared insupportable; he was now free, but slavery appeared preferable had his relation been spared; the charm of the place had fled with her—her many kindnesses now with redoubled force crowded upon his mind—his memory dwelt upon her virtues, and all that was left for him was to follow her last counsels.

A short time after this event, as he was taking his usual ride, when near the church the bell began slowly to toll; 'twas the first time he had noticed it since the funeral of his aunt; he stopped and gazed upon the

place, impelled by curiosity or feelings of a graver nature.

Now to us there appears something particularly impressive in the deep sounds, the clear tone of a church bell, and peculiarly solemn does it seem when its regular toll announces to the surviving world a child of nature has gone to his long last home ; yes, it reminds us that we are mortals, ere long the sun will shine, the earth continue its diurnal motion, the seasons roll round, winter's snow yielding to the freshness and verdure of spring, the heats of summer followed by the abundance of harvest ; the sciences flourish, the arts be developed, nations may be blessed by the happy fruits of peace, or fierce struggles and cruel wars have the ascendancy ; the star-lit firmament will remain unchanged, the winds continue to blow, and tempests scatter destruction and ruin to all within their terrible power :—all these will continue unheard, unseen, unfelt by us, as we shall have passed to our last resting place—beyond the power, controul, or dominion of any of these influences—and our requiem shall be heard in the deep sound, the measured toll of the church bell.

Our friend appeared touched by those sounds that brought to his mind so many sorrowful recollections, and leaving his horse he walked into the church-yard, visited the grave of his relative, dropped a tear to her memory, and hastened from the spot:

By the will of his aunt he found himself sole heir to *about £50,000* ; and having settled all things in regular

order, his next great trouble was in what manner he should live, so as to obtain the greatest amount of happiness within the reach of man, as he had ever held it as a great principle, that to live merely for the sake of existence was unworthy an intellectual being endowed with mind, thought, and genius, which clearly demonstrated he was designed for something far loftier than a mere mechanical state.

Our friend however was no great philosopher after all ; although an admirer of the oratory of Demosthenes, the legislative justness and equality of Lycurgus, the wisdom of Solon, and the virtue of Socrates, yet he took but very little pains to shape his course after the manner of these worthies, obey the precepts or attend to their doctrines : he merely read and studied them for their sublimity, style and elegance, never entertaining an idea of becoming a convert to their doctrines, or an imitator of their rare and virtuous lives, but still he possessed a good heart and generous disposition.

Now as two heads are better than one, and the advice of a friend in an emergency is often very acceptable, especially when we are uncertain which track to follow, and what particular course to pursue, our friend thought he could not do better than advise with Jack Clinton, with whom he was acquainted, and who was a bachelor, living upon a small competency upon his own estate near him, in company with his sister. Accordingly he repaired thither, and having introduced the subject by saying he thought he must change his mode of living,

"By Jove, my dear fellow, I wonder how you have endured living in so quiet a fashion for so long a time," exclaimed Clinton; "of course duty, to a certain extent, impelled you to be mindful of your relation; but at all events now no such consideration exists, therefore I say by all means pursue a different career." "Well, I have certainly" replied Tom "been thinking ——" "Thinking," interrupted his friend, "act; set to work at once; thinking too much is the worst thing imaginable; did you ever know a man grow rich by thinking?" "Doubtless," retorted Newton, "many have become poor from precipitate action, without first thinking of the consequences." "Well, that may be true," said Clinton, "but to the point; about your change, why not travel, first through France, thence to Naples, Rome, Florence, through Switzerland and the like; here's amusement and employment blended." "It might be very agreeable with a companion, but I abhor travelling alone, and more especially on the continent." "Well, come over and dine with us to-morrow; then we can talk more about it," said Clinton, to whose mind a plan suddenly occurred, in which, if he succeeded, it might prove of advantage to him.

Now as his sister possessed but very small property, and rather stood in his way, as he had determined upon marrying, the thought naturally occurred to him, if he could marry her to so wealthy a man as Newton, at the *same time* that she would be comfortably provided for, *he would be relieved from his charge, so determined* ^{he}.

bring about the business, if possible, as he would then be at greater liberty to follow his inclinations, and put his schemes into execution.

Accordingly, when Tom came the next day, the subject was renewed, by Clinton saying, "What sort of a companion would you like on your travels Tom, a friend, a wife, or what?" "A capital thought," returned he, "by the bye, I remember my aunt advised something in the shape of a wife, after she was dead, and I dare say that would be as good a thing as any I could take with me; but I have never formed any acquaintance, consequently don't know where I should look for one, although I dare say they are easy enough to be had. Which is the best market Clinton?" "For my part," returned his friend, "I should never like to go far away for such a purpose, but look round the neighbourhood, and see if I could not get one of whom I knew a little." "True," said Newton, "that's a good suggestion; now you see my situation is just this: I have money, nothing to fear for the future, health and the like, yet I want something still; that is, a partner of my joys and cares; some dear little creature who would just take an interest in one; it's a capital thought, I think I'll advertize; how jolly to read in the paper 'Wanted a Wife!' I wonder if it would answer; I think I'll try." "Nonsense, there are other means than that," returned Clinton, "there's ———" at this moment the door opened and Miss Clinton entered the room—"my sister Mr. Newton." How very odd, thought our friend.

that the young lady should enter at this moment ; it appeared to him a capital finish of the unuttered sentence, "there's my —— sister ;" therefore, although he had oftentimes seen her before, Tom scrutinized her more closely now than he had ever done ; observing if her features were regular, her form proportionate, her manners engaging, and the like, as he had determined if he ever married his choice should be pretty, accomplished, and graceful.

Now although Miss Clinton was not decidedly pretty, yet there was intelligence portrayed in her interesting features which amply made up for such deficiency, accompanied by an elegant and commanding figure, with the advantage of a well cultivated mind and easy address ;—surely the very person for our friend's wife ; nor might he have been better suited had he resorted to his design of advertising for a partner !

Accordingly, for the remainder of the evening Tom was occupied with this young lady—testing her knowledge upon various subjects, her tastes and inclinations, but was especially careful to elicit her opinion upon travelling, and if such a mode of life would be agreeable to her, and after a longer stay than he had ever before made at his friend's house, he took his leave, after receiving an invitation to call whenever he wanted a change, and a fair promise on his part to see them in a day or two.

It happened the next day an old acquaintance called *upon our friend* on his way to London, and as he medi-

tated a change he thought this might prove as agreeable as any—therefore set out in a few days with his companion for the metropolis, without thinking any more of Clinton, his sister, or his promise. Upon his arrival in town he soon formed a circle of acquaintance ; and as we introduced him at the commencement of this narrative, speedily contracted a thoughtless, wayward, and unsettled disposition.

Having however for some years lived so very regularly with his aunt, and become in a measure accustomed to steady and careful habits, his reckless manner of living soon began to tell upon his constitution ; and at the end of a year from his leaving the country he had lost his healthy complexion, natural spirits, and equanimity of mind ; nor could he exist without exciting influences—some stimulant to supply the want of his former energy and original vigour.

“This won’t do,” he soliloquised, as he arose one morning, enfeebled in body, and low spirited, occasioned by the lateness of the previous evening’s amusement, “I am certainly killing myself, destroying my health, and squandering my means to no purpose ; and what would my poor aunt say if she could look upon me just now ; indeed I am ungrateful, thus scorning her advice and disregarding all her kind counsels. This is but an artificial life I am now living, and must be discontinued, or I shall very soon cease to exist ; so in a word good bye to all my companions—to-day I leave for the *country*.”

Although he had an engagement in the evening, yet he carried his intention into effect, and really left London that very day, determined to seek in the solitude and quiet of his home that which he had failed to find abroad—happiness ; for it was excitement he had experienced, not real enjoyment ; folly he had pursued, not true pleasure ; an imaginary good, not a reality.

The surest sign of repentance doubtless is in forsaking old practices, and adopting better ; and in this way did our friend act, tired of his irregular life, wearied of his dissolute companions, and finding neither satisfaction or happiness in the course he had pursued ; although it cost him a struggle, and was a severe test of his resolution, yet he entirely abandoned his late mode of life, and became again a steady, virtuous, and after a little time, a healthy man. But as he found a country life wearisome, with nothing to relieve its monotony, and living alone, the thought occurred to him that he could not do better than to follow his aunt's advice, and at once marry ; and in his mind fully concluded upon securing the hand of Miss Clinton, who upon his last interview with her had made a favorable impression upon him. He determined therefore at once to propose, and to put his design into practice rode over to her brother's, who he doubted not would lend him his assistance in the matter.

He met with a very cordial reception from his old *friend*, who at the same time that he welcomed him *back to the country*, gently upbraided him for leaving

them so suddenly—without even a parting word. “However,” concluded Clinton, “this is always the way with you single fellows; you stand but for little ceremony,” “*You* single fellows,” returned Tom, “do you intend to say you are married then?” “I am, and that most happily,” answered Clinton. Tom sighed, and wished he could say the same; however, after a moment’s silence he said, “And your sister, is she well?” “Hearty and as happy as myself,” replied his friend joyously, and which appeared rather an ominous token to his companion, who again enquired, “Is she still with you?” Oh! dear no,” returned Clinton, “she’s now in Hampshire with her husband.” Now had a thunderbolt fell at the feet of Newton it could not have produced a greater shock on his nerves than did this intelligence: the blood forsook his cheeks, and he fairly trembled from head to foot, “Excuse my weakness, Clinton,” said he, “but I had flattered myself with the hope that it should one day have been my fortune to be more closely connected with you, by your sister becoming my wife; of late I have ardently wished for this, nor for a moment thought I should be disappointed, and now to hear she is another’s—it’s trying to one’s feelings, but I was to blame; I gave you no reason to suppose these were my wishes, and she was right in accepting a favorable offer; well all I can now do is to wish her happy.” “My dear fellow, I should have been too happy had this occurred,” said *his friend*, “but I had no idea of your wishes, or inten-

tions ; why not have thrown out a hint before you left us, or had you dropped me a note when you were away it might not have been too late ; but receiving a good offer, I had neither power or inclination to restrain my sister's wishes, and accordingly she was married."

Poor Newton ! this was a severe blow for him ; his friend pressed him to stop the remaining part of the day, but he was too sad to accept his invitation, and therefore after an introduction to Mrs. Clinton, hastened home low spirited and dejected.

The sequel is soon told ; after, for a time, giving way to the most melancholy feelings, with the same resolution that he displayed in leaving his old associates in London, and changing his mode of life, he roused himself from his temporary prostration of spirits, resolving to pass a single life ; he soon after commenced travelling, in which he found infinite amusement, and up to the present time is the most unsettled fellow imaginable, seldom or ever for any length of time in one place, and although he might have experienced more quiet happiness and domestic felicity surrounded by a family, his standing motto when we have spoken to him upon this subject is, "Time enough for that yet."

Now if the man were not our friend we might feel inclined to say with some of our fair readers, "he justly merited his punishment, he should at first have proposed to Miss Clinton" ; well, well we know this would *have been the most proper and wisest course, but as charity compels us to admit, that none of us are less*

liable to fall into error than he, we think as he has committed a mistake the best thing is for some lady in whose company he may chance to be, to rectify his blunder, and which can be done in the most simple manner possible, by merely whispering into his ear, "Wanted a Husband," and our honour for it, Tom's heart would suddenly bound and rebound at the joyful announcement, and immediately reply, "Wanted a Wife," would propose, be accepted, married, and thus the matter be settled in the most judicious, speedy and comfortable manner.

"Well, but how shocking for ladies to propose—how contrary to the rules of etiquette" say you—we reply, the gentlemen have been proposing from time immemorial, so let us just reverse the matter, for really it's time the ladies took a little of the business upon their own shoulders; besides, love stands not upon ceremony, is totally regardless of any prescribed rules, and scorns trifles. Now we are confident we shall not be thought ungallant towards the fair sex by recording a simple fact. It has fallen to our lot to be seated by the side of a very interesting young lady, whose fascinating appearance has promised us an unusual amount of happiness; upon addressing her we have perceived a sort of backwardness but which however we thought would soon vanish; we have ventured upon a general observation, to which she has replied "Yes," then to a pleasant remark she has returned "No," and thus an *infinity of monosyllables* has been the reward of all our

exertions to interest and divert her. "And would you have the young ladies put themselves too forward and continually talking"? Certainly not, dear madam, but if you hope to see your daughters married (and what mother does not) surely then it is nothing derogatory for them to join in an intelligent conversation even with a polite stranger, and if we mistake not this will go very far towards the consummation of your desires.

However, this by the way, and as an argument that some alteration is called for, some changes essential; mode, fashion, etiquette, or whatever term you may apply, should be considerably modified, and in some cases doubtless might be judiciously abrogated.

And are there not myriads in the same situation as our friend Newton; he has the means to make him happy, but had he pursued a different course doubtless might have been much happier; man is by nature of a domestic character, he wants a home with its endearments, comforts and fond associations; these however, are not attainable without the other important want being supplied, and before he can hope to realize any of these enjoyments our words will occur to him, "Wanted a Wife," and in choosing he must of course study his own taste and peculiar ideas; advice on this head would be preposterous, but when once his choice is fixed, and the union complete, we cannot refrain from saying,— resolve to be happy, allow not trifles to disturb your *quiet*, and although the road through life at times may *be rough and strewn with difficulties*, let it be smoothed

by mutual love and affection, each contributing to the other's happiness, nor need we remind the wife of the chastity of Penelope, the heroism of Pandora, the noble virtue of Lucretia, and the magnanimity of Hipparchia ; her own interests will teach her to follow the examples set by these exemplary women of former ages, remembering that upon her example and the developement of sound principle, the character of her husband will, in a measure be formed, and materially influenced.

Thus we have to a small extent, indulged in the ideal, touched upon the pathetic, ascended to the boundless region of thought ; sentiment has been mingled with the romantic, accompanied by a hasty glance at real life ; the wants of mankind we have seen to be numerous, constantly varying but never ending, to point out a way by which they may be supplied we are far from attempting, seeing such a task is beyond the range of possibilities, but since some are absolute, others contingent, the wisest course to adopt is to attend to the real disregarding the imaginary,—and thus whether relating to the general interests of life, or affecting its more tender alliances, our most hearty wish is that the wants, whatever they are, may be supplied congenial to the hopes, desires and affections of the individuals immediately concerned,—that the want of a husband, or a wife may be speedily supplied, accompanied by an unbounded share of happiness, and every blessing that Fortune and the world have to bestow.





